

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1975

REVIEW STAFF

75-3430

Dear Bill:

With regard to your letter to the President, dated October 29, 1975, on the claim of the Olson family, the President has approved the recommendation that a private relief bill in the amount of [REDACTED] to settle such claim be submitted to Congress, and that the Administration support prompt passage of the bill.

I suggest that a draft of the private relief bill be prepared by your lawyers with the assistance of the Department of Justice. I have called Rex Lee, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, and he has indicated that Justice will be pleased to render whatever assistance they can. After the bill and a justification of the theory and the amount of damages have been prepared, the materials should be reviewed by the lawyers for the Olson family. In discussing a private bill approach with Messrs. Rudovsky and Kairys, they indicated they wanted to review the bill before it is submitted to Congress.

One last thought on the bill is that we should attempt to achieve at the least a two step procedure rather than the normal three steps for private bills generally. As I understand it, the normal process is: (1) a bill is passed referring the matter to the Court of Claims for a damages hearing; (2) a bill is enacted approving the damages found by the Court of Claims and authorizing payment; and (3) an appropriations bill is passed for the authorized payment. Hopefully, we will be able to streamline the normal procedure and avoid a Court of Claims hearing to achieve rapid passage of the bill.

While the drafting of the bill is moving forward, I suggest the appropriate legislative people discuss the procedural aspects with the appropriate staff members of the concerned House and Senate Judiciary Subcommittees. In the House, presumably an

Approved for Release

Date _____

69

28

FEB 20 1976

b (1) b (3)

attempt would be made to have the bill introduced by Representative Goodloe E. Byron (D.Md.), who represents the Olsons' district. In the Senate, the Olsons' lawyers informed me that Senator Mathias has expressed an interest in the matter.

I am sure you will agree that it is important that we start the private bill process as soon as possible.

With best regards.

Sincerely,



Edward C. Schmults
Deputy Counsel to the President

Honorable W. E. Colby
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

cc: Honorable Rex Lee

75
11/25

ER